

Serial No.: 10/713,550
Amendment dated 15 May 2006
Reply to Office Action mailed 15 March 2006

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for transferring at least one label portion from a label assembly onto an object comprising:

a base;

a stop wall connected to the base;

an application area defined on a first surface of the base and bounded at one end by the stop wall;

a first stripping member connected with respect to a first end portion of the application area, the first stripping member having at least one stripping finger extending from the stop wall toward the application area and suspended over at least a portion of the application area; and

a second stripping member connected with respect to a second end portion of the application area and suspended over at least a portion of the application area,

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wherein at least a portion of the label assembly is positionable in a gap formed between the first stripping member and the application area and a gap formed between the second stripping member and the application area to position the at least one label portion on the base surface between the first stripping member and the second stripping member,

wherein the label assembly remains on the application area following transfer of the at least one label portion from the label assembly onto the object.

2. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein the stop wall comprises an indexing element.

3. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 1 further comprising opposing guides positioned with respect to the application area and corresponding to at least a portion of a periphery of the label assembly.

4. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 3 wherein the first stripping member comprises a stripping bar extending between the opposing guides and suspended with respect to the first end portion of the application area.

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5. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 3 wherein the second stripping member comprises a stripping bar extending between the opposing guides and suspended with respect to the second end portion of the application area.

6. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 3 wherein the second stripping member comprises a first member extending from an end portion of a first guide of the opposing guides toward the application area and a second member extending from an end portion of a second guide of the opposing guides toward the application area, each member suspended over at least a portion of the application area.

7. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 6 wherein each member further comprises a secondary guide connected with respect to the stop wall.

8. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 7 further comprising a first guide area defined by the secondary guides.

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9. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 8 wherein the first guide area comprises a recessed area formed in the base and within the application area, the recessed area corresponding to one label portion of the at least one label portion.

10. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 8 further comprising a second guide area defined by the secondary guides different than the first guide area.

11. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 8 wherein each secondary guide forms a portion of a first object profile.

12. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 11 wherein each secondary guide forms a portion of a second object profile.

13. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 3 wherein the opposing guides converge towards the stop wall.

14. (Canceled)

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15. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein the base comprises one of plastic, metal, wood and composite material.

16. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein at least a portion of the stop wall is integrated with the base.

17. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein a wall extends along at least a portion of a periphery of the base.

18. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 17 wherein each of the first stripping member and the second stripping member is integrated with the wall.

19. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 17 wherein the wall is sloped along at least a portion of a length of the wall.

20. (Canceled)

21. (Canceled)

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22. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 1 further comprising a cover attached with respect to a second surface of the base.

23. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 22 wherein at least a portion of the cover is transparent.

24. (Previously presented) An apparatus for transferring a label portion from a label assembly onto an object comprising:

a base;

a wall integrated with the base, at least a portion of the wall forming opposing guides corresponding to at least a portion of a periphery of the label assembly and a stop wall, the opposing guides and the stop wall defining an application area on a surface of the base;

at least one stripping finger extending from the stop wall and suspended over a first end portion of the application area, a gap formed between the at least one stripping finger and the base surface;

a first stripping member extending from a first guide of the opposing guides and suspended over at least a portion of a second end portion of the application

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area and at a distance from the at least one stripping finger, a gap formed between the first stripping member and the base surface; and

a second stripping member extending from a second guide of the opposing guides and suspended over at least a portion of the second end portion of the application area and at a distance from the at least one stripping finger, a gap formed between the second stripping member and the base surface.

25. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 24 wherein the first stripping member, the second stripping member and the at least one stripping finger define a first guide area.

26. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 25 wherein the first guide area comprises a recessed area formed in the base and within the application area, the recessed area corresponding to one label portion of the at least one label portion.

27. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 25 wherein the first stripping member and the second stripping member define a second guide area different than the first guide area.

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28. (Original) An apparatus for transferring at least one label portion from a label assembly onto an object comprising:

a base forming a wall;

a first guide formed by at least a portion of the wall and corresponding to a portion of a periphery of the label assembly;

a second guide formed by at least a portion of the wall, the second guide opposing the first guide and corresponding to a portion of the periphery of the label assembly;

a stop wall extending between a first end portion of the first guide and a first end portion of the second guide, the stop wall, the first guide and the second guide defining an application area on a surface of the base;

a plurality of stripping fingers extending from the stop wall toward the application area and suspended over at least a portion of the application area, a gap formed between each stripping finger of the plurality of stripping fingers and the base surface;

a first stripping member connected between a second end portion of the first guide and the stop wall, the first stripping member extending toward the application area and suspended over at least a portion of the application area, a gap formed between the first stripping member and the base surface; and

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a second stripping member connected between a second end portion of the second guide and the stop wall, the second stripping member extending toward the application area and suspended over at least a portion of the application area, a gap formed between the second stripping member and the base surface.

29. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 28 further comprising:

a first guide area defined by the first stripping member, the second stripping member and the plurality of stripping fingers; and

a second guide area defined by the first stripping member and the second stripping member, the second guide area different than the first guide area.

30. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 29 wherein the first guide area comprises a first recessed area formed in the base and within the application area.

31. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 29 further comprising a third guide formed by at least a portion of the wall, the third guide corresponding to at least a portion of the periphery of the label assembly and defining a second application area on the base surface.

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32. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 31 further comprising a first recessed area formed in the base surface and within the second application area.

33. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 32 further comprising a second recessed area formed in the base surface and within the second application area.

34. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 33 wherein the first recessed area is different than the second recessed area.

35. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 33 wherein a portion of the first recessed area overlaps a portion of the second recessed area.

36. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 33 wherein a depth of the first recessed area is different than a depth of the second recessed area.

37. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 33 wherein a third recessed area is positioned within the first recessed area.

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38. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 31 further comprising at least one alignment member connected to the third guide.

39. (Previously presented) An apparatus for transferring at least one label portion from a label assembly onto an object comprising:

a base;

an application area defined on a first surface of the base;

a first guide connected to the base and defining a first side of the application area;

a second guide connected to the base and opposing the first guide, the second guide defining a second side of the application area;

a first stripping member connected to the first guide and suspended over at least a portion of the application area; and

a second stripping member connected to the second guide and suspended over at least a portion of the application area,

wherein at least a portion of the label assembly is positionable in a gap formed between the first stripping member and the base surface and a gap formed between the second stripping member and the base surface to position the at least one label portion on the application area.

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